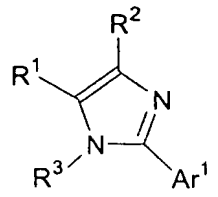
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of treating a disease mediated by the Cannabinoid-1 receptor comprising administration to a patient in need of such treatment of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of structural formula I:



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^1 is selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-4}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-4}alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-4}alkynyl,
(5) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl,
(6) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(9) aryl, and
(10) heteroaryl;

wherein alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloheteroalkyl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^a, and aryl and heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b;

R^2 is selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,
(2) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(3) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(4) $-SR^c$,
(5) $-S(O)_mR^c$,

(6) $-SO_2NR^cR^d$,
(7) $-NR^cR^d$,
(8) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(9) $-NR^cSO_2R^d$,
(10) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(11) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(12) $-C(O)OR^c$, and
(13) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$;

R^3 is selected from:

(1) $-C_{1-10}$alkyl, and
(2) $-Ar^2$;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are independently selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, benzothienyl, benzofuranyl, indanyl, indenyl, indolyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzofuranyl, dihydrobenzopyranyl, and 1,4-benzodioxanyl, each optionally substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from R^b;

each R^a is independently selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,
(2) $-NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,
(3) halogen,
(4) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(5) $-SR^c$,
(6) $-S(O)_2OR^c$,
(7) $-S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,
(8) $-NR^cR^d$,
(9) $-O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,
(10) $-C(O)R^c$,
(11) $-CO_2R^c$,
(12) $-CO_2(CR^eR^f)_nCONR^cR^d$,
(13) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(14) $-CN$,
(15) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$,
(16) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(17) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(18) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,

(19) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(20) $-CR^c(N-OR^d)$,
(21) $-CF_3$,
(22) $-OCF_3$,
(23) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, and
(24) cycloheteroalkyl;

each R^b is independently selected from:
(1) C_{1-6}alkyl,
(2) C_{2-6}alkenyl,
(3) C_{2-6}alkynyl,
(4) $-OR^c$,
(5) $-NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,
(6) $-NO_2$,
(7) halogen,
(8) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(9) $-SR^c$,
(10) $-S(O)_2OR^c$,
(11) $-S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,
(12) $-NR^cR^d$,
(13) $-O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,
(14) $-C(O)R^c$,
(15) $-CO_2R^c$,
(16) $-CO_2(CR^eR^f)_nCONR^cR^d$,
(17) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(18) $-CN$,
(19) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$,
(20) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(21) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(22) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(23) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(24) $-CR^c(N-OR^d)$,
(25) $-CF_3$,
(26) $-OCF_3$,
(27) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl,

(28) cycloheteroalkyl, and

(29) phenyl;

each R^c and R^d is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,

(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,

(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,

(5) -NH(C_{1-10}alkyl),

(6) -N(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$,

(7) cycloalkyl,

(8) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10}alkyl;

(9) cycloheteroalkyl,

(10) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl;

(11) aryl,

(12) heteroaryl,

(13) aryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, and

(14) heteroaryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, or

R^c and R^d together with the atom to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring of 4 to 7 members containing 0-2 additional heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^c,

each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^e;

each R^e and R^f is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,

(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,

(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,

(5) cycloalkyl,

(6) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,

(7) cycloheteroalkyl,

(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,

(9) aryl,

(10) heteroaryl,

(11) aryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, and

(12) heteroaryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, or

R^e and R^f together with the carbon to which they are attached form a ring of 5 to 7 members containing 0-2 heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen;

m is selected from 1 and 2; and

n is selected from 1, 2, and 3.

2. The method according to Claim 1 wherein the disease mediated by the Cannabinoid-1 receptor is selected from: psychosis, memory deficit, cognitive disorders, migraine, neuropathy, neuro-inflammatory disorders, cerebral vascular accidents, head trauma, anxiety disorders, stress, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, schizophrenia, substance abuse disorders, constipation, chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, cirrhosis of the liver, asthma, obesity, and other eating disorders associated with excessive food intake.

3. The method according to Claim 2 wherein the disease mediated by the Cannabinoid-1 receptor is an eating disorder associated with excessive food intake.

4. The method according to Claim 3 wherein the eating disorder asssociated with excessive food intake is selected from obesity, bulimia nervosa, and compulsive eating disorders.

5. The method according to Claim 4 wherein the eating disorder associated with excessive food intake is obesity.

6. The method according to Claim 1, wherein in the compound of structural formula I:

R^1 is selected from:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) C_{1-4}alkyl,

(3) C_{2-4}alkenyl,

(4) C_{2-4}alkynyl,

(5) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, and

(6) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,

wherein alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, and cycloalkyl, are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^a;

R^2 is selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,
(2) $-SR^c$,
(3) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(4) $-SO_2NR^cR^d$,
(5) $-NR^cR^d$,
(6) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(7) $-NR^cSO_2R^d$,
(8) $-C(O)OR^c$, and
(9) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$;

R^3 is selected from:

(1) $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, and
(2) $-Ar^2$;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are independently selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, each optionally substituted with one or two groups independently selected from R^b;

each R^a is independently selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,
(2) $-NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,
(3) halogen,
(4) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(5) $-SR^c$,
(6) $-S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,
(7) $-NR^cR^d$,
(8) $-O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,
(9) $-C(O)R^c$,
(10) -CN,
(11) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$,
(12) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(13) $-CF_3$,
(14) $-OCF_3$,
(15) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, and

(16) cycloheteroalkyl;

each R^b is independently selected from:

(1) C_{1-6}alkyl,

(2) -OR^c,

(3) halogen,

(4) -CN,

(5) -$C(O)NR^cR^d$,

(6) -$NR^cC(O)R^d$,

(7) CF_3,

(8) -OCF_3, and

(9) phenyl;

each R^c and R^d is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) -C_{1-10} alkyl,

(3) -$NH(C_{1-10}$ alkyl),

(4) -$N(C_{1-10}$ alkyl$)_2$,

(5) cycloalkyl, and

(6) cycloheteroalkyl, or

R^c and R^d together with the atom to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring of 4 to 7 members containing 0-2 additional heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^c,

each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^e;

each R^e and R^f is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,

(3) cycloheteroalkyl,

(4) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,

(5) aryl,

(6) heteroaryl,

(7) aryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, and

(8) heteroaryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, or

R^e and R^f together with the carbon to which they are attached form a ring of 5 to 7 members containing 0-2 heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. The method according to Claim 6, wherein in the compound of structural formula I:

R^1 is selected from:

(1) hydrogen, and

(2) C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^2 is selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,

(2) $-NR^cR^d$,

(3) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,

(4) $-NR^cSO_2R^d$,

(5) $-C(O)OR^c$, and

(6) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$;

R^3 is selected from:

(1) – methyl, and

(2) – Ar^2;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are phenyl, each optionally substituted with one or two groups independently selected from R^b;

each R^e and R^f is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,

(3) cycloheteroalkyl,

(4) aryl, and

(5) heteroaryl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. The method according to Claim 7, wherein in the compound of structural formula I:

R^1 is selected from:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) methyl, and

(3) ethyl;

R^2 is selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,

(2) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,

(3) $-C(O)OR^c$, and

(4) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are each independently selected from:

(1) phenyl,

(2) 4-fluorophenyl,

(3) 2-chlorophenyl,

(4) 3-chlorophenyl,

(5) 4-chlorophenyl,

(6) 4-cyanophenyl,

(7) 4-methylphenyl,

(8) 4-isopropylphenyl,

(9) 4-biphenyl,

(10) 4-bromophenyl,

(11) 4-iodophenyl,

(12) 2,4-dichlorophenyl, and

(13) 2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl;

each R^c and R^d is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) methyl,

(3) ethyl,

(4) $-N(CH_3)_2$,

(5) $-NH(CH_3)$,

(6) cyclopentane,

(7) cyclohexane,

(8) cycloheptane,

(9) piperidine,

(10) morpholine,

(11) pyrrolidine,

(12) azepine, and

(13) 4-methylpiperazine,

each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^e;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. The method according to Claim 8, wherein in the compound according to structural formula I:
R^1 is methyl;
R^2 is $-C(O)NR^cR^d$;
R^3 is $-Ar^2$;
Ar^1 is 2,4-dichlorophenyl;
Ar^2 is 4-chlorophenyl;
each R^c and R^d is independently selected from:
(1) hydrogen,
(2) cyclohexane, and
(3) piperidine,
each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^e;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the compound of structural formula I is selected from:
(1) ethyl 1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxylate;
(2) ethyl 2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,5-dimethyl-imidazole-4-carboxylate;
(3) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;
(4) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;
(5) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,5-dimethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;
(6) N-(cyclopentyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;
(7) N-(cycloheptyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(8) N-(morpholin-4-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(9) N-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(10) N-(azepin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(11) N-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(12) N',N'-dimethyl-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxhydrazide;

(13) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(phenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(14) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(phenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(15) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(16) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(17) N-(4-methyl-cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide (Isomer A);

(18) N-(2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(19) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(20) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(21) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(22) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(23) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(24) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(25) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(26) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(27) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-biphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(28) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-biphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(29) N-(cyclohexyl)-1,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(30) N-(piperidin-1yl)-1,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(31) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(32) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(33) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(34) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(35) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(36) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(37) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(38) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(39) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(40) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide; and

(41) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(3-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. The method according to Claim 10, wherein the compound of structural formula I is selected from:

(1) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(2) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(3) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

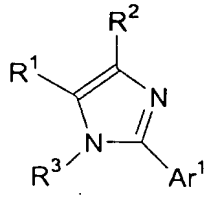
(4) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(5) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide; and

(6) N-(cycloheptyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. A method of preventing obesity in a person at risk for obesity comprising administration to said person of about 0.001 mg to about 100 mg per kg of a compound of structural formula I:



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^1 is selected from:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) C_{1-4}alkyl,

(3) C_{2-4}alkenyl,

(4) C_{2-4}alkynyl,

(5) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl,

(6) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(9) aryl, and
(10) heteroaryl;

wherein alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloheteroalkyl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^a, and aryl and heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b;

R^2 is selected from:
(1) $-OR^c$,
(2) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(3) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(4) $-SR^c$,
(5) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(6) $-SO_2NR^cR^d$,
(7) $-NR^cR^d$,
(8) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(9) $-NR^cSO_2R^d$,
(10) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(11) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(12) $-C(O)OR^c$, and
(13) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$;

R^3 is selected from:
(1) $-C_{1-10}$alkyl, and
(2) $-Ar^2$;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are independently selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, benzothienyl, benzofuranyl, indanyl, indenyl, indolyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzofuranyl, dihydrobenzopyranyl, and 1,4-benzodioxanyl, each optionally substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from R^b;

each R^a is independently selected from:
(1) -OR^c,
(2) -$NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,
(3) halogen,

(4) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(5) $-SR^c$,
(6) $-S(O)_2OR^c$,
(7) $-S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,
(8) $-NR^cR^d$,
(9) $-O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,
(10) $-C(O)R^c$,
(11) $-CO_2R^c$,
(12) $-CO_2(CR^eR^f)_nCONR^cR^d$,
(13) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(14) -CN,
(15) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$,
(16) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(17) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(18) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(19) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(20) $-CR^c(N-OR^d)$,
(21) $-CF_3$,
(22) $-OCF_3$,
(23) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, and
(24) cycloheteroalkyl;

each R^b is independently selected from:

(1) C_{1-6}alkyl,
(2) C_{2-6}alkenyl,
(3) C_{2-6}alkynyl,
(4) $-OR^c$,
(5) $-NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,
(6) $-NO_2$,
(7) halogen,
(8) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(9) $-SR^c$,
(10) $-S(O)_2OR^c$,
(11) $-S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,
(12) $-NR^cR^d$,

(13) $-O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,
(14) $-C(O)R^c$,
(15) $-CO_2R^c$,
(16) $-CO_2(CR^eR^f)_nCONR^cR^d$,
(17) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(18) -CN,
(19) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$,
(20) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(21) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(22) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(23) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(24) $-CR^c(N-OR^d)$,
(25) $-CF_3$,
(26) $-OCF_3$,
(27) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl,
(28) cycloheteroalkyl, and
(29) phenyl;

each R^c and R^d is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,
(5) $-N(C_{1-10}alkyl)_2$,
(6) $-NH(C_{1-10}alkyl)$,
(7) cycloalkyl,
(8) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10}alkyl;
(9) cycloheteroalkyl,
(10) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl;
(11) aryl,
(12) heteroaryl,
(13) aryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, and
(14) heteroaryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, or

R^c and R^d together with the atom to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring of 4 to 7 members containing 0-2 additional heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^c,

each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^e;

each R^e and R^f is independently selected from:

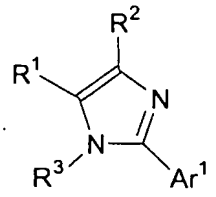
(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,
(5) cycloalkyl,
(6) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,
(9) aryl,
(10) heteroaryl,
(11) aryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, and
(12) heteroaryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, or

R^e and R^f together with the carbon to which they are attached form a ring of 5 to 7 members containing 0-2 heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen;

m is selected from 1 and 2; and

n is selected from 1, 2, and 3.

13. A compound of structural formula I:



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^1 is selected from: methyl and ethyl,
wherein methyl and ethyl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^a;
R^2 is selected from:

(1) –C(O)OR^c, and
(2) –C(O)NR^{c}R^d;

R^3 is selected from methyl and Ar^2;
Ar^1 and Ar^2 are phenyl, each optionally substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from R^b;
each R^a is independently selected from:

(1) -OR^c,
(2) -NR^{c}S(O)$_m$R^d,
(3) halogen,
(4) -S(O)$_m$R^c,
(5) -SR^c,
(6) -S(O)$_m$NR^{c}R^d,
(7) -NR^{c}R^d,
(8) -O(CR^{e}R^f)$_n$NR^{c}R^d,
(9) -C(O)R^c,
(10) -CN,
(11) -C(O)NR^{c}R^d,
(12) -NR^{c}C(O)R^d,
(13) -CF$_3$, and
(14) -OCF$_3$;

each R^b is independently selected from: halogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, -CN, and phenyl;
each R^c and R^d is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,
(5) -NH(C_{1-10}alkyl),
(6) -N(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$,
(7) cycloalkyl,

(8) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10}alkyl,
(9) cycloheteroalkyl,
(10) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,
(11) aryl,
(12) heteroaryl,
(13) aryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, and
(14) heteroaryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, or

R^c and R^d together with the atom to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring of 4 to 7 members containing 0-2 additional heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^c,

each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^e;

each R^e and R^f is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,
(5) cycloalkyl,
(6) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,
(9) aryl,
(10) heteroaryl,
(11) aryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, and
(12) heteroaryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, or

R^e and R^f together with the carbon to which they are attached form a ring of 5 to 7 members containing 0-2 heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen;

m is selected from 1 and 2; and

n is selected from 1, 2, and 3.

14. The compound of claim 13 wherein:

R^1 is methyl;

R^2 is $-C(O)NR^cR^d$;

R^3 is selected from methyl and Ar^2;

Ar^1 is phenyl substituted at the 2 and 4 positions with a substituent independently selected from R^b;

Ar^2 is independently selected from:

(1) phenyl,
(2) 4-fluorophenyl,
(3) 2-chlorophenyl,
(4) 3-chlorophenyl,
(5) 4-chlorophenyl,
(6) 4-cyanophenyl,
(7) 4-methylphenyl,
(8) 4-isopropylphenyl,
(9) 4-biphenyl,
(10) 4-bromophenyl,
(11) 4-iodophenyl,
(12) 2,4-dichlorophenyl, and
(13) 2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl;

each R^c and R^d is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) methyl,
(3) ethyl,
(4) $-N(CH_3)_2$,
(5) $-NH(CH_3)$,
(6) cyclopentane,
(7) cyclohexane,
(8) cycloheptane,
(9) piperidine
(10) morpholine,
(11) pyrrolidine,
(12) azepine, and
(13) 4-methylpiperazine,

each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^e;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. A compound selected from:

(1) ethyl 1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxylate;

(2) ethyl 2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,5-dimethyl-imidazole-4-carboxylate;

(3) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(4) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(5) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,5-dimethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(6) N-(cyclopentyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(7) N-(cycloheptyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(8) N-(morpholin-4-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(9) N-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(10) N-(azepin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(11) N-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(12) N',N'-dimethyl-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxhydrazide;

(13) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(phenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(14) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(phenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(15) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(16) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(17) N-(4-methyl-cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide (Isomer A);

(18) N-(2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(19) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(20) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(21) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(22) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(23) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(24) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(25) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(26) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-cyanophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(27) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-biphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(28) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-biphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(29) N-(cyclohexyl)-1,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(30) N-(piperidin-1yl)-1,2-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(31) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(32) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(33) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(34) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(35) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(36) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(37) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(38) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(39) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(40) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide; and

(41) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(3-chlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. The compound according to Claim 15 selected from:

(1) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(2) N-(piperidin-1-yl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(3) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(4) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-ethyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

(5) N-(cyclohexyl)-1-(4-bromophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide; and

(6) N-(cycloheptyl)-1-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

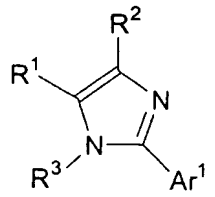
17. A composition comprising a compound according to Claim 13 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. A composition comprising a compound according to Claim 15 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

19. A method of preventing obesity in a person at risk for obesity comprising administration to said person of about 0.001 to about 100 mg/kg of a compound according to Claim 13.

20. A method of preventing obesity in a person at risk for obesity comprising administration to said person of about 0.001 to about 100 mg/kg of a compound according to Claim 15.

21. A composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of structural formula I:



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^1 is selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-4}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-4}alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-4}alkynyl,
(5) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl,
(6) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(9) aryl, and
(10) heteroaryl;

wherein alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloheteroalkyl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^a, and aryl and heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b;

R^2 is selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,
(2) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(3) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(4) $-SR^c$,
(5) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(6) $-SO_2NR^cR^d$,
(7) $-NR^cR^d$,
(8) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(9) $-NR^cSO_2R^d$,
(10) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(11) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(12) $-C(O)OR^c$, and
(13) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$;

R^3 is selected from:

(1) $-C_{1-10}$alkyl, and
(2) $-Ar^2$;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are independently selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, benzothienyl, benzofuranyl, indanyl, indenyl, indolyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzofuranyl, dihydrobenzopyranyl, and 1,4-benzodioxanyl, each optionally substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from R^b;

each R^a is independently selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,
(2) $-NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,
(3) halogen,
(4) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(5) $-SR^c$,
(6) $-S(O)_2OR^c$,
(7) $-S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,
(8) $-NR^cR^d$,

(9) $-O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,
(10) $-C(O)R^c$,
(11) $-CO_2R^c$,
(12) $-CO_2(CR^eR^f)_nCONR^cR^d$,
(13) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(14) -CN,
(15) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$,
(16) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(17) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(18) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(19) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(20) $-CR^c(N-OR^d)$,
(21) $-CF_3$,
(22) $-OCF_3$,
(23) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, and
(24) cycloheteroalkyl;

each R^b is independently selected from:
(1) C_{1-6}alkyl,
(2) C_{2-6}alkenyl,
(3) C_{2-6}alkynyl,
(4) $-OR^c$,
(5) $-NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,
(6) $-NO_2$,
(7) halogen,
(8) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(9) $-SR^c$,
(10) $-S(O)_2OR^c$,
(11) $-S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,
(12) $-NR^cR^d$,
(13) $-O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,
(14) $-C(O)R^c$,
(15) $-CO_2R^c$,
(16) $-CO_2(CR^eR^f)_nCONR^cR^d$,
(17) $-OC(O)R^c$,

(18) -CN,
(19) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$,
(20) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(21) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(22) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(23) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(24) $-CR^c(N-OR^d)$,
(25) $-CF_3$,
(26) $-OCF_3$,
(27) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl,
(28) cycloheteroalkyl, and
(29) phenyl;

each R^c and R^d is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,
(5) $-NH(C_{1-10}alkyl)$,
(6) $-N(C_{1-10}alkyl)_2$,
(7) cycloalkyl,
(8) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10}alkyl;
(9) cycloheteroalkyl,
(10) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl;
(11) aryl,
(12) heteroaryl,
(13) aryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, and
(14) heteroaryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, or

R^c and R^d together with the atom to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring of 4 to 7 members containing 0-2 additional heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^c,

each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^e;

each R^e and R^f is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,
(5) cycloalkyl,
(6) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,
(9) aryl,
(10) heteroaryl,
(11) aryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, and
(12) heteroaryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, or

R^e and R^f together with the carbon to which they are attached form a ring of 5 to 7 members containing 0-2 heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen;

m is selected from 1 and 2; and

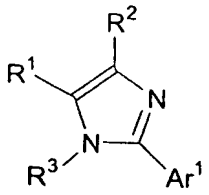
n is selected from 1, 2, and 3;

and an anorectic agent selected from: aminorex, amphechloral, amphetamine, benzphetamine, chlorphentermine, clobenzorex, cloforex, clominorex, clortermine, cyclexedrine, dexfenfluramine, dextroamphetamine, diethylpropion, diphemethoxidine, *N*-ethylamphetamine, fenbutrazate, fenfluramine, fenisorex, fenproporex, fludorex, fluminorex, furfurylmethylamphetamine, levamfetamine, levophacetoperane, mazindol, mefenorex, metamfepramone, methamphetamine, norpseudoephedrine, pentorex, phendimetrazine, phenmetrazine, phentermine, phenylpropanolamine, picilorex and sibutramine; or

a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor selected from: fluoxetine, fluvoxamine, paroxetine and sertraline;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. A composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of structural formula I:



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^1 is selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-4}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-4}alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-4}alkynyl,
(5) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl,
(6) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(9) aryl, and
(10) heteroaryl;

wherein alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloheteroalkyl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^a, and aryl and heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b;

R^2 is selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,
(2) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(3) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(4) $-SR^c$,
(5) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(6) $-SO_2NR^cR^d$,
(7) $-NR^cR^d$,
(8) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(9) $-NR^cSO_2R^d$,
(10) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(11) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,

(12) –C(O)OR^c, and

(13) –C(O)NR^{c}R^d;

R^3 is selected from:

(1) – C_{1-10}alkyl, and

(2) – Ar^2;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are independently selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, benzothienyl, benzofuranyl, indanyl, indenyl, indolyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzofuranyl, dihydrobenzopyranyl, and 1,4-benzodioxanyl, each optionally substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from R^b;

each R^a is independently selected from:

(1) -OR^c,

(2) -NR^{c}S(O)$_m$R^d,

(3) halogen,

(4) -S(O)$_m$R^c,

(5) -SR^c,

(6) -S(O)$_2$OR^c,

(7) -S(O)$_m$NR^{c}R^d,

(8) -NR^{c}R^d,

(9) -O(CR^{e}R^f)$_n$NR^{c}R^d,

(10) -C(O)R^c,

(11) -CO$_2$R^c,

(12) -CO$_2$(CR^{e}R^f)$_n$CONR^{c}R^d,

(13) -OC(O)R^c,

(14) -CN,

(15) -C(O)NR^{c}R^d,

(16) -NR^{c}C(O)R^d,

(17) -OC(O)NR^{c}R^d,

(18) -NR^{c}C(O)OR^d,

(19) -NR^{c}C(O)NR^{c}R^d,

(20) -CR^c(N-OR^d),

(21) -CF$_3$,

(22) -OCF$_3$,

(23) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, and

(24) cycloheteroalkyl;

each R^b is independently selected from:

(1) C_{1-6}alkyl,
(2) C_{2-6}alkenyl,
(3) C_{2-6}alkynyl,
(4) $-OR^c$,
(5) $-NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,
(6) $-NO_2$,
(7) halogen,
(8) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(9) $-SR^c$,
(10) $-S(O)_2OR^c$,
(11) $-S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,
(12) $-NR^cR^d$,
(13) $-O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,
(14) $-C(O)R^c$,
(15) $-CO_2R^c$,
(16) $-CO_2(CR^eR^f)_nCONR^cR^d$,
(17) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(18) $-CN$,
(19) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$,
(20) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(21) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(22) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(23) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(24) $-CR^c(N\text{-}OR^d)$,
(25) $-CF_3$,
(26) $-OCF_3$,
(27) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, and
(28) cycloheteroalkyl,
(29) phenyl;

each R^c and R^d is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,

(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,
(5) -NH(C_{1-10}alkyl),
(6) -N(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$,
(7) cycloalkyl,
(8) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10}alkyl;
(9) cycloheteroalkyl,
(10) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl;
(11) aryl,
(12) heteroaryl,
(13) aryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, and
(14) heteroaryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, or

R^c and R^d together with the atom to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring of 4 to 7 members containing 0-2 additional heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^c,

each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^e;

each R^e and R^f is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,
(5) cycloalkyl,
(6) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,
(9) aryl,
(10) heteroaryl,
(11) aryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, and
(12) heteroaryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, or

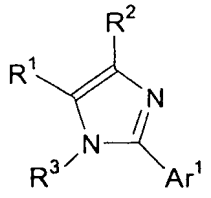
R^e and R^f together with the carbon to which they are attached form a ring of 5 to 7 members containing 0-2 heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen;

m is selected from 1 and 2; and

n is selected from 1, 2, and 3;

and an antidepressant agent selected from: norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, monoamine oxidase inhibitors, reversible inhibitors of monoamine oxidase, serotonin and noradrenaline reuptake inhibitors, corticotropin releasing factor antagonists, α-adrenoreceptor antagonists and atypical anti-depressants;
and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

23. A composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of structural formula I:



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:
R^1 is selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-4}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-4}alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-4}alkynyl,
(5) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl,
(6) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(9) aryl, and
(10) heteroaryl;

wherein alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloheteroalkyl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^a, and aryl and heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b;
R^2 is selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,
(2) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(3) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,

(4) $-SR^c$,
(5) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(6) $-SO_2NR^cR^d$,
(7) $-NR^cR^d$,
(8) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(9) $-NR^cSO_2R^d$,
(10) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(11) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(12) $-C(O)OR^c$, and
(13) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$;

R^3 is selected from:

(1) $-C_{1-10}$alkyl, and
(2) $-Ar^2$;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are independently selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, benzothienyl, benzofuranyl, indanyl, indenyl, indolyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzofuranyl, dihydrobenzopyranyl, and 1,4-benzodioxanyl, each optionally substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from R^b;

each R^a is independently selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,
(2) $-NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,
(3) halogen,
(4) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(5) $-SR^c$,
(6) $-S(O)_2OR^c$,
(7) $-S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,
(8) $-NR^cR^d$,
(9) $-O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,
(10) $-C(O)R^c$,
(11) $-CO_2R^c$,
(12) $-CO_2(CR^eR^f)_nCONR^cR^d$,
(13) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(14) $-CN$,
(15) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$,
(16) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,

(17) -OC(O)NR^{c}R^d,
(18) -NR^{c}C(O)OR^d,
(19) -NR^{c}C(O)NR^{c}R^d,
(20) -CR^c(N-OR^d),
(21) -CF_3,
(22) -OCF_3,
(23) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, and
(24) cycloheteroalkyl;

each R^b is independently selected from:

(1) C_{1-6}alkyl,
(2) C_{2-6}alkenyl,
(3) C_{2-6}alkynyl,
(4) -OR^c,
(5) -NR^{c}S(O)$_m$R^d,
(6) -NO_2,
(7) halogen,
(8) -S(O)$_m$R^c,
(9) -SR^c,
(10) -S(O)$_2$OR^c,
(11) -S(O)$_m$NR^{c}R^d,
(12) -NR^{c}R^d,
(13) -O(CR^{e}R^f)$_n$NR^{c}R^d,
(14) -C(O)R^c,
(15) -CO_2R^c,
(16) -CO_2(CR^{e}R^f)$_n$CONR^{c}R^d,
(17) -OC(O)R^c,
(18) -CN,
(19) -C(O)NR^{c}R^d,
(20) -NR^{c}C(O)R^d,
(21) -OC(O)NR^{c}R^d,
(22) -NR^{c}C(O)OR^d,
(23) -NR^{c}C(O)NR^{c}R^d,
(24) -CR^c(N-OR^d),
(25) -CF_3,

(26) -OCF_3,
(27) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl,
(28) cycloheteroalkyl, and
(29) phenyl;

each R^c and R^d is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,
(5) -NH(C_{1-10}alkyl),
(6) -N(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$,
(7) cycloalkyl,
(8) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10}alkyl;
(9) cycloheteroalkyl,
(10) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl;
(11) aryl,
(12) heteroaryl,
(13) aryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, and
(14) heteroaryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, or

R^c and R^d together with the atom to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring of 4 to 7 members containing 0-2 additional heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^c,

each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^e;

each R^e and R^f is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,
(5) cycloalkyl,
(6) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,
(9) aryl,

(10) heteroaryl,

(11) aryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, and

(12) heteroaryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, or

R^e and R^f together with the carbon to which they are attached form a ring of 5 to 7 members containing 0-2 heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen;

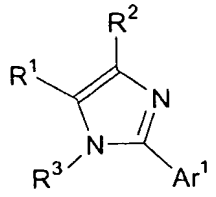
m is selected from 1 and 2; and

n is selected from 1, 2, and 3;

and the VLA-4 antagonist natalizumab; or a steroid or corticosteroid selected from: beclomethasone, methylprednisolone, betamethasone, prednisone, dexamethasone, and hydrocortisone; or an antihistamine selected from: bromopheniramine, chlorpheniramine, dexchlorpheniramine, triprolidine, clemastine, diphenhydramine, diphenylpyraline, tripelennamine, hydroxyzine, methdilazine, promethazine, trimeprazine, azatadine, cyproheptadine, antazoline, pheniramine pyrilamine, astemizole, terfenadine, loratadine, desloratadine, cetirizine, fexofenadine, and descarboethoxyloratadine; or a non-steroidal anti-asthmatics selected from: theophylline, cromolyn sodium, atropine, and ipratropium bromide; or a β2-agonist selected from: terbutaline, metaproterenol, fenoterol, isoetharine, albuterol, bitolterol, salmeterol, epinephrine, and pirbuterol; or a leukotriene antagonist selected from: zafirlukast, montelukast, pranlukast, iralukast, pobilukast, and SKB-106,203; or a leukotriene biosynthesis inhibitors selected from: zileuton, and BAY-1005; or an anti-cholinergic agent selected from ipratropium bromide and atropine; or an antagonist of the CCR-3 chemokine receptors;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

24. A composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of structural formula I:



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^1 is selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-4}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-4}alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-4}alkynyl,
(5) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl,
(6) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(9) aryl, and
(10) heteroaryl;

wherein alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloheteroalkyl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^a, and aryl and heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b;

R^2 is selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,
(2) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(3) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(4) $-SR^c$,
(5) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(6) $-SO_2NR^cR^d$,
(7) $-NR^cR^d$,
(8) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(9) $-NR^cSO_2R^d$,
(10) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(11) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(12) $-C(O)OR^c$, and
(13) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$;

R^3 is selected from:

(1) $-C_{1-10}$alkyl, and
(2) $-Ar^2$;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are independently selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, benzothienyl, benzofuranyl, indanyl, indenyl, indolyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzofuranyl, dihydrobenzopyranyl, and 1,4-benzodioxanyl, each optionally substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from R^b;

each R^a is independently selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,
(2) $-NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,
(3) halogen,
(4) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(5) $-SR^c$,
(6) $-S(O)_2OR^c$,
(7) $-S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,
(8) $-NR^cR^d$,
(9) $-O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,
(10) $-C(O)R^c$,
(11) $-CO_2R^c$,
(12) $-CO_2(CR^eR^f)_nCONR^cR^d$,
(13) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(14) $-CN$,
(15) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$,
(16) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(17) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(18) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(19) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(20) $-CR^c(N\text{-}OR^d)$,
(21) $-CF_3$,
(22) $-OCF_3$,
(23) $C_{3\text{-}8}$cycloalkyl, and
(24) cycloheteroalkyl;

each R^b is independently selected from:

(1) $C_{1\text{-}6}$alkyl,
(2) $C_{2\text{-}6}$alkenyl,
(3) $C_{2\text{-}6}$alkynyl,
(4) $-OR^c$,

(5) $-NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,
(6) $-NO_2$,
(7) halogen,
(8) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(9) $-SR^c$,
(10) $-S(O)_2OR^c$,
(11) $-S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,
(12) $-NR^cR^d$,
(13) $-O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,
(14) $-C(O)R^c$,
(15) $-CO_2R^c$,
(16) $-CO_2(CR^eR^f)_nCONR^cR^d$,
(17) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(18) -CN,
(19) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$,
(20) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(21) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(22) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(23) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(24) $-CR^c(N-OR^d)$,
(25) $-CF_3$,
(26) $-OCF_3$,
(27) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl,
(28) cycloheteroalkyl, and
(29) phenyl;

each R^c and R^d is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,
(5) $-NH(C_{1-10}alkyl)$,
(6) $-N(C_{1-10}alkyl)_2$,
(7) cycloalkyl,
(8) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10}alkyl;

(9) cycloheteroalkyl,
(10) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,
(11) aryl,
(12) heteroaryl,
(13) aryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, and
(14) heteroaryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, or

R^c and R^d together with the atom to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring of 4 to 7 members containing 0-2 additional heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^c,

each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^e;

each R^e and R^f is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,
(5) cycloalkyl,
(6) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,
(9) aryl,
(10) heteroaryl,
(11) aryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, and
(12) heteroaryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, or

R^e and R^f together with the carbon to which they are attached form a ring of 5 to 7 members containing 0-2 heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen;

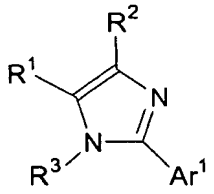
m is selected from 1 and 2; and

n is selected from 1, 2, and 3;

and an osmotic agent selected from sorbitol, lactulose, polyethylene glycol, magnesium, phosphate,and sulfate; or a laxative selected from: magnesium and docusate sodium; or a bulking agent selected from: psyllium, methylcellulose, and calcium polycarbophil; or a stimulant selected from an anthroquinone, and phenolphthalein;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

25. A composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of structural formula I:



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^1 is selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-4}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-4}alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-4}alkynyl,
(5) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl,
(6) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(9) aryl, and
(10) heteroaryl;

wherein alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloheteroalkyl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^a, and aryl and heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b;

R^2 is selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,
(2) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(3) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(4) $-SR^c$,
(5) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(6) $-SO_2NR^cR^d$,

(7) $-NR^cR^d$,
(8) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(9) $-NR^cSO_2R^d$,
(10) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(11) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(12) $-C(O)OR^c$, and
(13) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$;

R^3 is selected from:
(1) $-C_{1-10}$alkyl, and
(2) $-Ar^2$;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are independently selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, benzothienyl, benzofuranyl, indanyl, indenyl, indolyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzofuranyl, dihydrobenzopyranyl, and 1,4-benzodioxanyl, each optionally substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from R^b;

each R^a is independently selected from:
(1) $-OR^c$,
(2) $-NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,
(3) halogen,
(4) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(5) $-SR^c$,
(6) $-S(O)_2OR^c$,
(7) $-S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,
(8) $-NR^cR^d$,
(9) $-O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,
(10) $-C(O)R^c$,
(11) $-CO_2R^c$,
(12) $-CO_2(CR^eR^f)_nCONR^cR^d$,
(13) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(14) $-CN$,
(15) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$,
(16) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(17) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(18) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(19) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,

(20) $-CR^c(N-OR^d)$,
(21) $-CF_3$,
(22) $-OCF_3$,
(23) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, and
(24) cycloheteroalkyl;

each R^b is independently selected from:

(1) C_{1-6}alkyl,
(2) C_{2-6}alkenyl,
(3) C_{2-6}alkynyl,
(4) $-OR^c$,
(5) $-NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,
(6) $-NO_2$,
(7) halogen,
(8) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(9) $-SR^c$,
(10) $-S(O)_2OR^c$,
(11) $-S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,
(12) $-NR^cR^d$,
(13) $-O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,
(14) $-C(O)R^c$,
(15) $-CO_2R^c$,
(16) $-CO_2(CR^eR^f)_nCONR^cR^d$,
(17) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(18) $-CN$,
(19) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$,
(20) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(21) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(22) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(23) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(24) $-CR^c(N-OR^d)$,
(25) $-CF_3$,
(26) $-OCF_3$,
(27) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl,
(28) cycloheteroalkyl, and

(29) phenyl;

each R^c and R^d is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,
(5) -NH(C_{1-10}alkyl),
(6) -N(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$,
(7) cycloalkyl,
(8) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10}alkyl;
(9) cycloheteroalkyl,
(10) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl;
(11) aryl,
(12) heteroaryl,
(13) aryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, and
(14) heteroaryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, or

R^c and R^d together with the atom to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring of 4 to 7 members containing 0-2 additional heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^c,

each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^e;

each R^e and R^f is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,
(5) cycloalkyl,
(6) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,
(9) aryl,
(10) heteroaryl,
(11) aryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, and
(12) heteroaryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, or

R^e and R^f together with the carbon to which they are attached form a ring of 5 to 7 members containing 0-2 heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen;

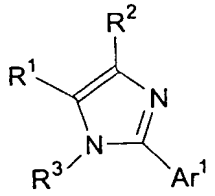
m is selected from 1 and 2; and

n is selected from 1, 2, and 3;

and a corticosteroid; or penicillamine; or colchicine; or an interferon-γ, 2-oxoglutarate analog; or a prostaglandin analog; or an anti-inflammatory drug selected from: azathioprine, methotrexate, leflunamide, indomethacin, and naproxen;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

26. The use of a compound according to of structural formula I:



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^1 is selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-4}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-4}alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-4}alkynyl,
(5) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl,
(6) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(9) aryl, and
(10) heteroaryl;

wherein alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloheteroalkyl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^a, and aryl and heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b;

R^2 is selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,
(2) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(3) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(4) $-SR^c$,
(5) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(6) $-SO_2NR^cR^d$,
(7) $-NR^cR^d$,
(8) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(9) $-NR^cSO_2R^d$,
(10) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(11) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(12) $-C(O)OR^c$, and
(13) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$;

R^3 is selected from:

(1) $-C_{1-10}$alkyl, and
(2) $-Ar^2$;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are independently selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, benzothienyl, benzofuranyl, indanyl, indenyl, indolyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzofuranyl, dihydrobenzopyranyl, and 1,4-benzodioxanyl, each optionally substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from R^b;

each R^a is independently selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,
(2) $-NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,
(3) halogen,
(4) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(5) $-SR^c$,
(6) $-S(O)_2OR^c$,
(7) $-S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,
(8) $-NR^cR^d$,
(9) $-O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,
(10) $-C(O)R^c$,
(11) $-CO_2R^c$,
(12) $-CO_2(CR^eR^f)_nCONR^cR^d$,

(13) -OC(O)R^c,
(14) -CN,
(15) -C(O)NR^cR^d,
(16) -$NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(17) -OC(O)NR^cR^d,
(18) -$NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(19) -$NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(20) -$CR^c(N\text{-}OR^d)$,
(21) -CF_3,
(22) -OCF_3,
(23) $C_{3\text{-}8}$cycloalkyl, and
(24) cycloheteroalkyl;

each R^b is independently selected from:

(1) $C_{1\text{-}6}$alkyl,
(2) $C_{2\text{-}6}$alkenyl,
(3) $C_{2\text{-}6}$alkynyl,
(4) -OR^c,
(5) -$NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,
(6) -NO_2,
(7) halogen,
(8) -$S(O)_mR^c$,
(9) -SR^c,
(10) -$S(O)_2OR^c$,
(11) -$S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,
(12) -NR^cR^d,
(13) -$O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,
(14) -$C(O)R^c$,
(15) -CO_2R^c,
(16) -$CO_2(CR^eR^f)_nCONR^cR^d$,
(17) -OC(O)R^c,
(18) -CN,
(19) -C(O)NR^cR^d,
(20) -$NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(21) -OC(O)NR^cR^d,

(22) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(23) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(24) $-CR^c(N-OR^d)$,
(25) $-CF_3$,
(26) $-OCF_3$,
(27) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl,
(28) cycloheteroalkyl, and
(29) phenyl;

each R^c and R^d is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,
(5) $-NH(C_{1-10}alkyl)$,
(6) $-N(C_{1-10}alkyl)_2$,
(7) cycloalkyl,
(8) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10}alkyl;
(9) cycloheteroalkyl,
(10) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl;
(11) aryl,
(12) heteroaryl,
(13) aryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, and
(14) heteroaryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, or

R^c and R^d together with the atom to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring of 4 to 7 members containing 0-2 additional heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^c,

each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^e;

each R^e and R^f is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,
(5) cycloalkyl,

(6) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,
(9) aryl,
(10) heteroaryl,
(11) aryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, and
(12) heteroaryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, or

R^e and R^f together with the carbon to which they are attached form a ring of 5 to 7 members containing 0-2 heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen;

m is selected from 1 and 2; and

n is selected from 1, 2, and 3;

for the manufacture of a medicament useful for the treatment of a disease mediated by the Cannabinoid-1 receptor in a human patient in need of such treatment.

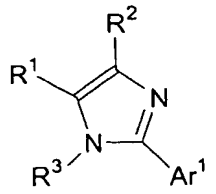
27. The use according to Claim 26 wherein the disease mediated by the Cannabinoid-1 receptor is selected from: psychosis, memory deficit, cognitive disorders, migraine, neuropathy, neuro-inflammatory disorders, cerebral vascular accidents, head trauma, anxiety disorders, stress, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, schizophrenia, substance abuse disorders, constipation, chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, cirrhosis of the liver, asthma, obesity, and other eating disorders associated with excessive food intake.

28. The use according to Claim 27 wherein the disease mediated by the Cannabinoid-1 receptor is an eating disorder associated with excessive food intake.

29. The use according to Claim 28, wherein the eating disorder asssociated with excessive food intake is selected from obesity, bulimia nervosa, and compulsive eating disorders.

30. The use according to Claim 29 wherein the eating disorder associated with excessive food intake is obesity.

31. The use of a compound of structural formula I



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^1 is selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-4}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-4}alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-4}alkynyl,
(5) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl,
(6) C_{3-7}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl,
(9) aryl, and
(10) heteroaryl;

wherein alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloheteroalkyl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^a, and aryl and heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R^b;

R^2 is selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,
(2) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(3) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(4) $-SR^c$,
(5) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(6) $-SO_2NR^cR^d$,
(7) $-NR^cR^d$,
(8) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(9) $-NR^cSO_2R^d$,

(10) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(11) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(12) $-C(O)OR^c$, and
(13) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$;

R^3 is selected from:

(1) $-C_{1-10}$alkyl, and
(2) $-Ar^2$;

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are independently selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, benzothienyl, benzofuranyl, indanyl, indenyl, indolyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, 2,3-dihydrobenzofuranyl, dihydrobenzopyranyl, and 1,4-benzodioxanyl, each optionally substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from R^b;

each R^a is independently selected from:

(1) $-OR^c$,
(2) $-NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,
(3) halogen,
(4) $-S(O)_mR^c$,
(5) $-SR^c$,
(6) $-S(O)_2OR^c$,
(7) $-S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,
(8) $-NR^cR^d$,
(9) $-O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,
(10) $-C(O)R^c$,
(11) $-CO_2R^c$,
(12) $-CO_2(CR^eR^f)_nCONR^cR^d$,
(13) $-OC(O)R^c$,
(14) $-CN$,
(15) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$,
(16) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,
(17) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(18) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,
(19) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,
(20) $-CR^c(N\text{-}OR^d)$,
(21) $-CF_3$,
(22) $-OCF_3$,

(23) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, and

(24) cycloheteroalkyl;

each R^b is independently selected from:

(1) C_{1-6}alkyl,

(2) C_{2-6}alkenyl,

(3) C_{2-6}alkynyl,

(4) $-OR^c$,

(5) $-NR^cS(O)_mR^d$,

(6) $-NO_2$,

(7) halogen,

(8) $-S(O)_mR^c$,

(9) $-SR^c$,

(10) $-S(O)_2OR^c$,

(11) $-S(O)_mNR^cR^d$,

(12) $-NR^cR^d$,

(13) $-O(CR^eR^f)_nNR^cR^d$,

(14) $-C(O)R^c$,

(15) $-CO_2R^c$,

(16) $-CO_2(CR^eR^f)_nCONR^cR^d$,

(17) $-OC(O)R^c$,

(18) -CN,

(19) $-C(O)NR^cR^d$,

(20) $-NR^cC(O)R^d$,

(21) $-OC(O)NR^cR^d$,

(22) $-NR^cC(O)OR^d$,

(23) $-NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d$,

(24) $-CR^c(N\text{-}OR^d)$,

(25) $-CF_3$,

(26) $-OCF_3$,

(27) C_{3-8}cycloalkyl,

(28) cycloheteroalkyl, and

(29) phenyl;

each R^c and R^d is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,

(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,
(5) -NH(C_{1-10}alkyl),
(6) -N(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$,
(7) cycloalkyl,
(8) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10}alkyl;
(9) cycloheteroalkyl,
(10) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl;
(11) aryl,
(12) heteroaryl,
(13) aryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, and
(14) heteroaryl-C_{1-10}alkyl, or

R^c and R^d together with the atom to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring of 4 to 7 members containing 0-2 additional heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^c,

each R^c and R^d may be unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents selected from R^e;

each R^e and R^f is independently selected from:

(1) hydrogen,
(2) C_{1-10}alkyl,
(3) C_{2-10} alkenyl,
(4) C_{2-10}alkynyl,
(5) cycloalkyl,
(6) cycloalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,
(7) cycloheteroalkyl,
(8) cycloheteroalkyl-C_{1-10} alkyl,
(9) aryl,
(10) heteroaryl,
(11) aryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, and
(12) heteroaryl-C_{1-10} alkyl, or

R^e and R^f together with the carbon to which they are attached form a ring of 5 to 7 members containing 0-2 heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen;

m is selected from 1 and 2; and

n is selected from 1, 2, and 3;

for the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention of obesity in a person at risk therefor.